

Remarks

Claims 24-41 are pending. By this amendment claims 25 and 40 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 43-59 are added. Upon entry of this amendment, **claims 24, 26-39, 41, and 43-59 will be pending.**

Applicants submit that no new matter is added as a result of this amendment.

Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, for example:

Claim 24: claim 25 and paragraphs 0006 and 0061

Claims 26- 28 and 31-32 are amended to correct dependency in view of cancellation of claim 25

Claim 39: claims 24 and 25 and paragraph 0077

Claim 43: paragraphs 0046, 0077 and 0117

Claim 44: paragraph 0061

Claim 45: paragraph 0067

Claims 46-49: paragraphs 0006, 0050, 0061 and 0079

Claims 50 - 59: claims 26 – 32 and 35-37, respectively

Applicants thank the examiner for withdrawing the previous 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection, and indicating the allowability of claims 25-32 if re-written in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 24, 33-37 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Pai *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,156,267). Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Pai *et al.* and Kohte (U.S. Patent No. 5,439,654).

Although Applicants disagree, solely in order to expedite prosecution claim 24 is amended to include the language of claim 25. As claim 25 was indicated to be allowable if re-written as an independent claim, claim 24 is now allowable, as are claims 26-38 and 43-49 that depend directly or indirectly there from.

Similarly, claim 39 is amended to include the language of claims 24 and 25, and thus is allowable, as are claims 50-59 which depend directly or indirectly there from.

Applicants believe the present application is ready for allowance, which action is requested. If any matters remain to be discussed before a Notice of Allowance is issued, Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned for a telephone interview at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 595-5300
Facsimile: (503) 595-5301

By /Sheree Lynn Rybak/
Sheree Lynn Rybak, Ph.D.
Registration No. 47,913